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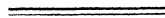
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# Index for Vol. LXX.

- Ambitious, Mistaken Policy, An, *Hon. James A. Tawney*, 110.  
 American Armada in the Lower Pacific, The, *Josiah W. Leeds*, 63.  
 American Peace Society, Annual Meeting of, 99, 121; Annual Reception by, 7; California Agency, 100; Eightieth Anniversary of, 123; Field Secretaryship, 76; Remonstrance against Navy Increase, 27; Report of Directors of, 141.  
 Arbitration but Not Armaments, *William I. Hull*, 260.  
 Arbitration Treaties, The New, *Editorial*, 50; Germany to Sign, 156.  
 Armaments, Arbitration but Not, 260; Case for Limitation of, 262; Fears and, 244; Limitation of, 59; Question Not to be Dropped, *Editorial*, 153; Treaties and, 245; United States Should Lead in Limitation of, 163.  
 Asquith, Hon. H. H., Address by, 184.  
 Australian Defection, 233.
- Bancroft, George, Letter from Elihu Burritt, 12.  
 Barbosa, Dr. Ruy, 36.  
 Bartholdt, Hon. Richard, Speech in House of Representatives, 105.  
 Battle Fleet Cruise, Article on, 63; Mischief of, *Editorial*, 2; More Mischief of, *Editorial*, 73.  
 Beals, Rev. Charles E., 76, 236.  
 Bizarre Peace Congress, A, *Editorial*, 230.  
 Bowles, Gilbert, Article by, 267.  
 Brenholtz, Edwin Arnold, 104.  
 Brewer, Chief Justice David J., 163.  
 British International Hospitality Fund, The, *Editorial*, 154.  
 British Peace Societies, The, 258.  
 Burritt, Elihu, Letter to George Bancroft, 12.  
 Burton, Hon. Theodore E., Speech in House of Representatives, 104.  
 Butler, Samuel P., 39.
- Campbell-Bannerman, Sir Henry, A Peace Premier, 101.  
 Carnage or Commerce, *Samuel P. Butler*, 39.  
 Casablanca Arbitration, The, 257.  
 Case for Limitation of Armaments, The, *Benjamin F. Trueblood*, 262.  
 Central American Court of Justice, The, *Editorial*, 4.  
 Chappell, Rev. Benjamin, M. A., Article by, 38.  
 Churches and the Big Navy Craze, The, 88.  
 Churches and the Peace Movement, The, *Rev. James L. Tryon*, 34; Duty of Churches toward the Peace Movement, 64.  
 Conditions of Peace between the East and the West, The, *Dr. J. H. De Forest*, 135.  
 Contagion of Militarism, The, *Editorial*, 154.  
 Cosmopolitan Clubs' Movement, The, *Editorial*, 255.  
 Costa, Señora de, 102, 259.  
 Courtney, Lord, Address at Opening of London Peace Congress, 186.  
 Cremer, William Randal: A White Knight of Peace, *Editorial*, 180, 258.
- De Forest, J. H., D. D., Article by, 81, 135.  
 D'Estournelles de Constant, Baron, Speech by, 59.  
 Dole, Charles F., Article by, 17.  
 Duty of Churches toward the Peace Movement, The, *Rev. J. F. Johnson*, 64.
- Early Scheme to Organize the World, An, *Edwin D. Mead*, 18.  
 Economic Facts for Practical People, *Lucia Ames Mead*, 168.  
 Emperor William, *Editorial*, 1, 253.  
 Encouraging Events of the Past Year, *Hon. John W. Foster*, 162.  
 Ex-Presidents as Peacemakers, *Editorial*, 27.
- Fallières, Visit of President, 156.  
 Farquhar, A. B., Article by, 64, 241.  
 Field Secretaryship, The New, *Editorial*, 76.  
 Fisheries Congress, The, 233.  
 Fleet, In the Wake of the, 244.  
 For the Sake of Peace, *Erving Winslow*, 91.  
 Foster, Hon. John W., Address at Mohonk Conference, 162.  
 Four-Battleship Program, The Rejection of the, *Editorial*, 97.  
 Freedom of Commerce in Time of War, The, *James L. Tryon*, 218.
- Fundamental Fallacy in the Big Navy Arguments, The, *Hon. Theodore E. Burton*, 104.  
 Further Increase of the Navy Not Necessary, *Hon. Richard Bartholdt*, 105.
- Gains of Arbitration during the Past Year, The, *Benjamin F. Trueblood*, 167.  
 German Trade Unionists, The, 234.  
 Germany, Financial Peril of, 235; To Sign Treaty of Arbitration, 156; The Workers of Britain to the Workers of, 243.  
 "Give Me Money and I'll Give You Peace," 14.  
 Great British Nation Frightened at a Ghost, The, 86.  
 Greatest Moral Question of the Century, The, 67.  
 Greatest of All Reforms, The, 184.
- Hague Conference, A Peace Conference, 128; Literature on the, 100; Preparations for the Third, *Editorial*, 25; President Roosevelt's Judgment of, 16; Successes and Failures of, 32; What Must Follow the, 217; and the World's Laws, 101.  
 Hale, Senator, Speech in the Senate, 113.  
 Hull, Prof. William I., Article by, 260.
- Illusion of War, Poem, *Richard Le Gallienne*, 147.  
 Intercollegiate Peace Association, 11, 28, 78, 158.  
 International Acquaintance, Plan to Promote Mutual, *Editorial*, 74.  
 International Hospitality Fund, The British, *Editorial*, 154.  
 International Jurisprudence, 66.  
 International Law Association Conference, 258.  
 International Peace Bureau and the Turkish-Bulgarian Crisis, 270.  
 International Peace and Christian Missions, *Gilbert Bowles*, 267.  
 International Situation, The, *Editorial*, 205.  
 Interparliamentary Union Conference at Berlin, The, *Editorial*, 208.  
 Irish Opposition to the Arbitration Treaty with Great Britain, *Editorial*, 75.  
 Is Japan a Menace to the United States? *Dr. J. H. De Forest*, 81.  
 Is War Inevitable? *Lord Courtney*, 213.
- Japan, Is Japan a Menace to the United States? 81; No War with, 52; Peace Society, 103; The Peace Movement in, 38; The Truth about, 55.  
 Jefferson, Rev. Charles E., D.D., Article by, 64.  
 Johnson, Rev. R. F., Article by, 64.  
 Justice and Peace — A Vision for Europe, *Lord Courtney*, 186.
- Kaiser William's Interview in the *London Daily Telegraph*, *Editorial*, 253.  
 King Edward, 1; The Peacemaker, *Editorial*, 179.  
 King Oscar, Death of, 8.
- Ladd, William, Project of a Congress and Court of Nations, 196.  
 Leeds, Josiah W., Article by, 63; Death of, 236.  
 Letter from Elihu Burritt to George Bancroft, 12.  
 Limitation of Armaments, 59; The Case for, 262.  
 Lloyd-George, Hon. David, Address at London Peace Congress, 186.  
 London Peace Congress, The, *Editorial*, 177, Proceedings of the, 188; London Peace Congress's Appeal to the Nations, 181.
- Mahmoud and Kasajas, Poem, *Alice Stone Blackwell*, 244.  
 Mead, Edwin D., Article by, 18, 215, 238.  
 Mead, Lucia Ames, Article by, 14, 168.  
 Memorial of One Hundred and Fifty-Four Members of the House of Commons on the Burden of Armaments, 217.  
 Middleton, Thomas J., Article by, 65.  
 Militarism, The Contagion of, *Editorial*, 154. Fallacies of, 84.  
 Mohonk Arbitration Conference, The, *Editorial*, 121; Circular to Representatives of Business Organizations, 92.  
 Moxom, Philip Stafford, Poem by, 238.
- Naval Expenditures, Increase in, 112.  
 Naval Increase, Philadelphia Friends' Remonstrance Against, 91; Remonstrance Against, *Editorial*, 27, 50.

## THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

- Navy, Churches and the Big Navy Craze, 88; The Duma and the, 76; Fundamental Fallacy in Argument for Big Navy, *Hon. Theodore E. Burton*, 104; Further Increase Not Necessary, 105.
- Neutralization of Norway and Honduras, 53; of the Philippines, 19.
- Nobel Peace Prize of 1907, The, *Editorial*, 6.
- North Carolina Peace Congress, The, 246, *Editorial*, 230.
- North Sea and Baltic Agreements, The, 200.
- Notes of Progress, *A. B. Furquhar*, 241.
- Ogden, Rollo, Address at Mohonk Conference, 165.
- Palace of Peace at The Hague, The, *Poem*, *Philip S. Mozom*, 238.
- Peace Congress, The London, 124, 157, 177, 188; The Next Universal, 8, 52; The Pennsylvania Arbitration and, 126; Platform of, 161; The Seventeenth International, *Editorial*, 98.
- Peace Day, A Calhoun, 29; in the Schools, *Editorial*, 75.
- Peace and the Imagination, *Mary E. Woolley*, 139.
- Peacemakers, Ex-Presidents as, *Editorial*, 27; at London, 188; Missionary, 29.
- Peace Movement in Japan, The, *Rev. Benjamin Chappell*, 38.
- Peace Prizes in Schools, 126, 159.
- Peace Society of the City of New York, The, 30.
- Peace Society of Southern California, The, 77.
- Peace Sunday, *Editorial*, 256.
- Peace Work in the South, 65.
- Peace to the World, *Poem*, *F. Stanley Van Eps*, 63.
- Pennsylvania Arbitration and Peace Congress, The, 126; Appeal Issued by, 268.
- Pennsylvania Peace Society, 10.
- Peoples and Peace, The, *Bishop of Hereford*, 214.
- Philadelphia Friends' Remonstrance against Increase of the Navy, 91.
- Porter, General Horace, 8.
- Postage, Universal Penny, *Editorial*, 232.
- President Roosevelt, Judgment of Work of Hague Conference, 16; Naval Policy, 17; Parts of Message, *Editorial*, 3.
- Press and the Cause of International Peace, The, *Rollo Ogden*, 165.
- Private Property at Sea, 218.
- Private and Public Warfare, 64.
- Rank among States not Determined by Military Standing, *Dr. Ruy Barbosa*, 36.
- Ralston, Jackson H., Address at Pennsylvania Peace Congress, 159.
- Reaction in South America, *Edwin D. Mead*, 238.
- Remonstrances against the Increase of the Navy, 50, 88.
- Resolutions Adopted by Conventions, 30, 78, 91, 181.
- Roosevelt, President, 3, 16, 17, 260.
- Root, Elihu, Article by, 66.
- Root, Robert C., 100, 103, 236.
- Russo-Japanese War, The Causes of the, 212.
- Safety of the Republic Does Not Lie in Professional Soldiers, 87.
- Scott, Hon. James Brown, Article by, 128, 196.
- Second Hague Conference a Peace Conference, The, 128.
- Senator Hale's Exposure of Growing Extravagance in Military and Naval Expenditures, 112.
- Sherwood, Hon. Isaac R., Article by, 87.
- Should Any National Dispute be Reserved from Arbitration, *Hon. Jackson H. Ralston*, 159.
- Some Fallacies of Militarism, *Charles E. Jefferson, D.D.*, 84.
- South America, Reaction in, *Edwin D. Mead*, 238.
- State Conferences for International Arbitration and Peace, 268.
- Statesmanship vs. Battleship, *Edwin D. Mead*, 215.
- Strange Contrast, *A. David Lloyd-George*, 186.
- Striking Incident, *A.*, 233.
- Students' Peace Movement, 78.
- Successes and Failures of the Second Hague Conference, The, 32.
- Taft, Secretary, 100.
- Tawney, Hon. James A., Speech in House of Representatives, 110.
- Texas State Peace Society, 53, 54.
- Thanksgiving for Peace, 258.
- Tolstoy, Leo, Reply to the Czar, 30; at Eighty, 210.
- Trueblood, Benjamin F., Article by, 32, 167, 262.
- Truth about Japan, The, *Dr. J. H. De Forest*, 55.
- Tryon, Rev. James L., Article by, 34, 126, 188, 218.
- Turkish-Bulgarian Crisis, The, *Editorial*, 229.
- United States Should Lead in Limitation of Armaments, The, *Justice David J. Brewer*, 163.
- Universal Penny Postage, *Editorial*, 232.
- Views of a Civil War Veteran, 267.
- Walsh, Walter, 102, 158.
- War, *Poem*, *Edw. n. Arnold Brenholtz*, 104.
- War, The Direct Fruit of, *Editorial*, 49.
- War Scare Mongers, 234.
- Watson, Dr. Robert Spence, Article by, 86.
- What King Edward and Emperor William Might Have Done, *Editorial*, 1.
- Whittier Centenary, The, *Editorial*, 5.
- Why Don't They Stop the Wicked War Talk, 90.
- Winslow, Erving, 91.
- Wishard, Glenn Porter, Prize Essay by, 170.
- Woman's Christian Temperance Union Work for Peace, 9, 158, 259.
- Women and Peace, *Editorial*, 254.
- Woolley, President Mary E., Address of, 139.
- Work for the Coming Year, *Editorial*, 7.
- Workers of Britain to the Workers of Germany, The, 243.
- Worldism vs. Nationalism, *Marcus J. Lehman*, 43.

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CONTENTS.	PAGE
EDITORIALS.....	1-7
What King Edward and Emperor William Might Have Done— The Mischief of the Big Battle Fleet Cruise—Parts of the President's Message—The Central American Court of Justice— The Whittier Centenary—The Nobel Peace Prize of 1907—Work for the Coming Year.	
EDITORIAL NOTES.....	7-10
The Annual Reception—The Next Peace Congress—The Porter Convention—Not Thinking of War—Death of King Oscar— "Israel's Mission is Peace"—W. C. T. U. Peace Department.	
NEWS FROM THE FIELD.....	10-11
BREVITIES.....	11-12
GENERAL ARTICLES:	
Letter from Elihu Burritt to George Bancroft in 1849.....	12-14
"Give Me Money and I'll Give You Peace." Lucia Ames Mead.	14-16
President Roosevelt's Judgment of the Work of the Hague Conference.....	16-17
The President's Naval Policy. Charles F. Dole.....	17-18
An Early Scheme to Organize the World. Edwin D. Mead.....	18-19
The Neutralization of the Philippines. Moorfield Story.....	19-20
NEW BOOKS.....	20-21
International Arbitration and Peace Lecture Bureau.....	21

## What King Edward and Emperor William Might Have Done.

Emperor William of Germany, after a month's sojourn in England, left for home December 11. On departing he expressed the hope that his visit might have contributed to foster friendly feeling between Great Britain and Germany. In many conversations with members of his entourage he laid much emphasis upon the necessity of friendship between the two countries. "We cannot afford to quarrel," he said. "I hope I have made it clear that my feeling toward England is one of affection."

In these and similar utterances, both in public speeches and in private conversations, the Emperor tried to convince the English people that he and his country were not only not desirous of picking a quarrel with Great Britain, but sincerely hoped that their peaceful relations might never be broken. There is no doubt that he was entirely sincere in these expressions. Nobody accuses William the Second of duplicity of speech.

It is to be hoped that the *Times*, and other English journals, which have been systematically nagging Germany of late, may be stirred to some sense of shame and self-respect by these frank and manly words of the Kaiser. It required no little self-possession and genuine courage in him, as well as an unusual desire for peace, to declare himself as he did, when he must have had burning in his soul the reproaches and maledictions of a certain section of

the English press, which had been daily belched forth up to the very moment when he arrived in London. If he had not known something of the irresponsibility of the press as exemplified by certain sheets in his own country, he probably would never have gone to England at all.

Not all of the British journals, to be sure, have followed the lead of the *Times*. There are a few, like the *Manchester Guardian* and the *London Tribune*, which have spoken steadily with genuine respect and appreciation of Germany, and have pleaded in the strongest terms for a true *entente cordiale* between the two nations. It is probably literally true, as Sir William Randal Cremer has declared, that if the press of the two countries could be muzzled for six months, all the bad feeling between them would disappear.

King Edward's conduct during Emperor William's visit, like that of the people in general, was just as noble and sincere on his part as that of the Kaiser on his. He showed himself again the true Peacemaker. Of this the German Emperor must have gone away absolutely assured, and he probably saw beneath the surface that a large majority of intelligent Englishmen had no sympathy with the base insinuations and mischief-making fulminations of the *Times* and its supporters.

But whatever important abatement of the bad feeling between the two countries may have been brought about by the personal relations, the public utterances and the praiseworthy conduct of the two rulers, the real cause of the difficulty has been left untouched; and so long as no attempt is made to remove this cause, both Kaiser and King will have preached practically in vain good feeling and trustful relations. The Kaiser back in Germany will urge on with all his personal magnetism the increase of the German navy. King Edward's government, on its side, will continue to lay down the keels of new Dreadnaughts, and thus naval rivalry, with the suspicions and alarms inevitably growing out of it, will quickly wipe out practically all of the good effects of the royal visits and speeches.

The mischief-making newspapers in the two countries, concentrating in themselves the popular distrust and fear engendered by the rivalry in naval extension, and seasoning these with their own greed of gain, will continue to talk mysteriously of "invasions" and "surprises" and the "smashing of fleets," and by their tirades of suspicion and abuse will keep